

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00341 230213Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 /032 W  
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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1738  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0341

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR OMITTED TEXT

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB CA  
SUBJECT: CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IN CAPE BRETON

1. AN ORGANIZATION CALLING ITSELF THE "CAPE BRETON COMMITTEE OF CONCERN FOR THE UNEMPLOYED" THREATENED ACTS OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AS A PROTEST AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT ON JULY 21. ON JULY 22 THE COMMITTEE BEGAN CARRYING OUT ITS THREAT BY HAVING BETWEEN 20 AND 25 OF ITS MEMBERS MOVE INTO THE LOBBY OF THE POST OFFICE IN THE FEDERAL BUILDING IN SYDNEY, NS, WITH SLEEPING BAGS AND FOOD, APPARENTLY PREPARED TO CARRY OUT AN ILLEGAL OCCUPATION TO PUBLICIZE THEIR DISCONTENT.

2. NS LABOR MINISTER WALTER FITZGERALD CALLED IT "COMPLETELY IRRESPONSIBLE" FOR JACK HALEY, HEAD OF THE CAPE BRETON COMMITTEE AND ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE CAPE BRETON LABOR COUNCIL, TO ENCOURAGE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE. HALEY SAID THAT THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DECISION WAS MADE ONLY AFTER THREE WEEKS OF TALKS WITH THE GOVERNMENT HAD BROKEN DOWN. HE ALSO CHARGE  
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BOTH THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS WITH USING STALL TACTICS AND SAVING MAKE-WORK PROGRAMS UNTIL JUST BEFORE AN ELECTION. FITZGERALD DENIED THIS, SAYING, "THE TRUTH IS JUST THE OPPOSITE. THE SHELF IS BARE, THE PLANS ARE ALL OUT. THERE ISN'T EVEN A BONE LEFT FOR THE DOG." HE WENT ON TO URGE CAPE BRETON WORKERS TO ADOPT MORE REASONABLE ATTITUDES AND

MORE REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS, POINTING TO CONSTRUCTION  
UNIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AS MODELS TO FOLLOW.

3. IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE REPORTING  
OFFICER, FITZGERALD DESCRIBED HALEY AS A MARXIST AND  
AS A SOCIALIST WHO IS LEADING A PACK OF NE'ER-DO-WELLS.  
THE TROUBLE WITH CAPE BRETONERS, HE SAID., IS THAT  
THEY HAVE LIVED DOLES AND GRANTS FOR SO LONG  
THAT THEIR EXPECTATIONS COMPLETELY OUTSTRIP REALITY.  
RATHER THAN ACCEPT LOW-PAYING JOBS, THEY WILL REFUSE  
ALTOGETHER TO WORK.

4. COMMENT: FITZGERALD WAS CLEARLY BLOWING OFF A  
BIT OF STEAM WHEN HE SPOKE WITH THE REPORTING OFFICER.  
PERHAPS HE FELT ON THE DEFENSIVE: THERE IS NO GETTING  
AWAY FROM THE FACT THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IS HIGH ON CAPE  
BRETON ISLAND. IT IS TRUE, TOO, THAT THE MAJORITY  
POLITICAL IDEOLOGY ON CAPE BRETON SEEMS TO CLOSELY  
AKIN TO SOCIALISM (ALL MLA'S FROM CAPE BRETON, FOR  
EXAMPLE, BELONG TO THE NDP).

5. WHAT WILL BE INTERESTING TO OBSERVE WILL BE  
THE MILEAGE (I.E., REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES) WHICH THE  
CAPE BRETON COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO GET FROM ITS CIVIL  
DISOBEDIENCE CAMPAIGN. PERHAPS IT WILL FIZZLE OUT, AS  
FITZGERALD CLEARLY HOPES. IT IT SUCCEEDS, HOWEVER, IT  
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WILL PROBABLY BE WIDELY IMITATED THROUGH ATLANTIC CANADA.  
HERE ON THE EAST COAST, THINGS ARE TOUGH ALL OVER.  
END COMMENT.  
MOORE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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